

From: Fields, Zack [William.Fields@fairfaxcounty.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 8:40 AM

To: Darton, Terry

Cc: Bonaiuto, Dominic J.; Mittereder, Susan E.; Hardy, Barbara; Agazi, Kambiz; Sinclair, Steve D.

Subject: comments on SOP for PRGS

Dear Mr. Darton,

I am submitting these written comments on behalf of Chairman Gerald E. Connolly. A constituent of Chairman Connolly's is going to read these into the record at today's public hearing as well.

Zack Fields

Land Use and Environment Aide

Chairman Gerry Connolly

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 530

Phone: (703) 324-2321

Fax: (703) 324-3955

January 25, 2008

Mr. Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Ct
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Mr. Darton:

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed draft state operating permit for the Potomac River Generating Station (Mirant) recommended by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ).

Fairfax County, as a member of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, is committed to the reduction of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) along with other permitted air pollutants and submits that the proposed permit is the appropriate mechanism from which these reductions can be achieved.

While the Mirant plant is not located in Fairfax County, it is our understanding that the plant emits significant levels of pollutants, including fine particulate matter, that can travel great distances and adversely affect human health. These increased levels of fine particulate matter pose a health risk to everyone, but especially the young and the elderly, and it is the duty of Fairfax County to support stringent emissions limits that will protect the public health and safety of its most vulnerable residents.

In the U.S. Department of Energy's Special Environmental Assessment Report, it found acute and widespread adverse health impacts of pollutant emissions, particularly increased incidences of mortality and hospitalization due to both short and long-term exposure to fine particulate matter. VDEQ must not fail in its responsibility to consider the critical health implications of fine particulate matter, which has been proven in the scientific community. In the permit being considered, VDEQ must set stringent fine particulate matter emission limits and require the plant to install the best available control technology for particulate emissions. Every possible step must be taken to protect the health of the residents living in this region and ensure their safety.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to VDEQ.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly